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On Behalf Of:
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Measure: SB422

I would like to share my own experience with "lane splitting" when I was a resident in California where it is currently legal. Movement is vital to the operation of many scooters and motorcycles are air cooled to prevent them from overheating and breaking down, but the the biggest factor is safety.

I ride a scooter as a commuter. It allows me to travel at the same speed as cars and trucks in urban areas while getting over 100 miles per gallon. The fuel efficiency comes from the size of our vehicles. However, because scooters and motorcycles are much smaller than cars and drivers, those drives often don't pay attention to us. Cars will merge into lanes not knowing we are there. Until they begin to see us, it is on us two-wheeled drivers to make our selves visible. When I was able to lane split on my scooter, it gave me the ability to get directly in front of the vision of other drivers at stopped intersections. I felt much safer being able to move to the head of the line rather than sandwiched in between large vehicles, some that are so big I didn't even come up to their rear window to be seen. The same is true when on a road where the traffic has come to a slow. In fact, sometimes this is even greater for us to be seen. Drivers get frustrated when their commute becomes a crawl and they make rash and quick maneuvers that put scooter and motorcycles in jeopardy. Lane splitting at a safe speed to remove ourselves from this dangerous situation not only helps protect us but also helps to remove vehicles from the congestion.